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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Qaddafi calls on others to dismantle WMD programs - Milliyet  
Missile shield over Washington, New York - Milliyet  
Talabani confident Iraq will become a federation - Sabah  
Vazir, Hochburg AG companies financing terror - US Treasury  
- Aksam  
Ankara wants changes to Annan Plan - Hurriyet  
Saddam's 'spider hole' to be taken to US - Sabah  
FM Gul to meet Turkey's EU envoys - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

TRNC parliament deadlocked - Cumhuriyet  
Rumsfeld's dirty past with Saddam - Radikal  
IBDA-C on EU terror list, 'new' PKK still out - Zaman  
Iran, Libya accept investigation, Israel's nuclear capacity  
still a mystery - Zaman  
Terror fear prevails in US - Cumhuriyet  
UBP leader Eroglu takes U-turn on Annan Plan - Radikal  
UBP's Eroglu: Annan Plan negotiable - Radikal  
Israel attacks civilians again: 8 dead - Zaman  
Israel raids Palestinian refugee camp, 8 dead - Radikal

BRIEFING

Cyprus: In a change of rhetoric, UBP leader and outgoing  
TRNC Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu said the Annan Plan is  
negotiable. Turkish dailies were surprised by Eroglu's  
change in tone. Eroglu, just like Turkish Cypriot leader  
Denktas, has been a staunch opponent of the Annan Plan.  
Denktas is expected to designate a new prime minister  
following the oath-taking ceremony on Friday. The UBP and  
CTP leaders have given moderate messages of compromise, and  
DP leader Serdar Denktas vowed to extend unconditional  
support to a coalition under Eroglu's leadership.  
Meanwhile, in an effort to contribute to a peaceful solution  
to the Cyprus problem, Turkey's ambassadors to 15 EU  
countries and the Turkish Ambassador to the United States  
will meet in Ankara on December 25-26 to discuss Cyprus.

EU list of terror organizations: The EU is expected to  
announce today a new list of terrorist organizations.  
Ankara is worried that the PKK/KADEK and its successor, KHK,  
are not included in the list. The EU reviewed the list on  
December 15 in light of alleged Al-Qaeda connections to the  
recent bombings in Istanbul. A recent report released by  
Europol said that organizations linked to Al-Qaeda regard EU  
countries as bases for logistical support and a vast pool of  
potential militant recruits.

74.4 percent of Turks want EU Membership: According to an  
opinion poll conducted by Bosphorus University, which  
sampled the views of 2,123 people in 20 provinces, 74.4  
percent of Turks want to join the EU. However, 45 percent  
are concerned that EU membership could reduce Turkey's  
national sovereignty. Researchers believe the AK Party had  
been successful in convincing its grassroots to support  
Turkey's EU aspiration.

Turkey, Greece reach energy agreement: Caspian Sea basin  
natural gas will be delivered to Europe via Greece, papers

report. Turkey's Energy Minister Guler signed an energy agreement with Greek Oil Minister Tsohatzopoulos on Tuesday. Tsohatzopoulos said the agreement would enable Turkey to

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become established in the European energy market. The EU will need 100 billion cubic meters of natural gas after 2005, according to reports. The Turkish press characterized the deal as the first step for Turkey to establish itself as an 'energy bridge' to Europe.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Libya; Iraq

#### "The Libya Example"

Sami Kohen commented in mass appeal Milliyet (12/24): "The surprisingly rational and realistic new approach by Qadhafi is comforting news for the whole world. More importantly, it is such a good Christmas gift for Bush and Blair. . The Libyan leader apparently felt strong pressure mounting against his isolation policies, and figured out that he must change his stance on WMD and terrorism in the post-war era. He made a clever move by establishing a dialogue with the Western world instead of defying it. Unlike Saddam Hussein, Qadhafi corrected his mistakes in time. The Libya example also proves that diplomacy is still the best option for resolving international disputes, a method that was not used in the case of Iraq."

#### "US and Kurds"

Fatih Altayli warned in mass appeal Hurriyet (12/24): "Turkey's reaction against developments in Iraq, particularly with regard to the Iraqi Kurds, is sometimes very paranoid. Sometimes we worry without even considering the realities and seeing the nuances. If you read the headlines in the Turkish papers, Turkey is now worried about the establishment of a federal Kurdistan. The headline-makers are unfortunately taking into account only the statements from the Iraqi Kurds. In reality, it is going to be all Iraqis -- not only the Kurds -- who will determine Iraq's future. . In reality, the Iraqi Kurds are seeking a federal Kurdish state and expect US support in exchange for the support they gave the US during the war. At this point, this is only a hope for the Kurds, because there is no evidence that the US supports the idea. Moreover, the US does not have a clear plan for Iraq yet. Turkey should enhance its bilateral ties with the US and exert its regional influence. It seems that everybody but Turkey realizes that nothing can happen contrary to Turkey's desire."

EDELMAN